

2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards Part I: Cover Sheet

Practice Name P.A.C.T. Program
Name of Principal Dr. Elizabeth Hargrove
Official School Name Catalina Ventura School
School Mailing Address 6331 N. 39th Avenue Tel. () 602-841-7445 ext. 6746
School Website http://www.alhambra.k12.az.us
Phoenix 85019 Email Address tkillingsworth@alhambra.k12.az.us
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

B Hargrove Date 11/28/07
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent Dr. Jim Rice
District Name Alhambra School District Tel. (602) 336-2920
District Mailing 4710 N. 37th Avenue
Phoenix 85017 Email Address jrice@alhambra.k12.az.us
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

James W. Rice Date Nov. 29, 2008
(Superintendent's signature)

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Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☒ Urban or large central city ☐ Suburban
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area
☐ Small city or town in a rural area ☐ Rural

2. .5 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

8 If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K <u>125</u>	5th <u>120</u>	10th <u> </u>
1st <u>118</u>	6th <u>114</u>	11th <u> </u>
2nd <u>139</u>	7th <u>111</u>	12th <u> </u>
3rd <u>142</u>	8th <u>106</u>	
4th <u>117</u>	9th <u> </u>	
		TOTAL: <u>1,136</u>

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 34.5 % 394 Total Number

Number of languages represented: 14 Specify languages: Primarily English and Spanish

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 80.5 % 915 Total Number

If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.

A frustrated parent once said, "As a parent, the phrase I dread the most during homework time is, . . . **BUT THAT'S NOT THE WAY MY TEACHER DOES IT!!!**" Another parent shared, "Now that my children are getting older, they have to sit down and *explain to me* what the Pythagorean theorem is before I am able to even *begin* to help them with their homework! "

Homework is part of a child's every day school experience. Parents want to help, but are occasionally uncertain of what steps to take to ensure their children are successful. Often times, the parents are unable to help because it has been several years since they have learned the objective the child is attempting to master.

It is these types of comments and frustrations that prompted Elizabeth Boyd and Theresa Killingsworth to create the PACT Program. "While homework sometimes causes frustration and arguments for [parents] and children, it can also be a vehicle for cooperation, a source of pride and accomplishment, and an opportunity for fun and creativity." (Johnson, 2002)

The PACT Program (Parents And Children Together) is one in which parents commit to attend regular tutoring sessions with their 3rd – 5th grade children. It focuses on parents and children working together to support the child's learning. Emphasis is on developing responsibility through good homework habits and strategies for helping children master special grade level performance objectives. Children, along with their parents, receive compensatory instruction in reading and math at their instructional level. The pairs also actively participate during the instruction using Kagan Cooperative Learning structures that may be repeated at home.

The PACT Program supports parents and children in the following ways:

- Support student learning, preventing learning difficulties that may arise later
- Provide information for parents about expectations for their child

- Provide a bridge between the school and the parent in terms of ways we can work together to support learning
- Provide parents and children the opportunity to learn together at their own pace
- Provide an opportunity to strengthen the home-school relationship
- Provide parents with an opportunity to be at school and to become more comfortable in the school environment

This program has been implemented at Catalina Ventura School since February 9, 2005.

We have had the opportunity to impact approximately 115 students and their parent partners since the program's inception in 2005. We plan to continue to expand this program during the 2007 – 2008 school year.

The PACT program has made a significant difference in student achievement as measured by the Arizona Learns designation and No Child Left Behind requirements. Catalina Ventura School improved from a "Performing" label to "Performing Plus" under Arizona Learns during the time the PACT program has been in implementation. In addition, three of the last four years Catalina Ventura has made Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind requirements.

There's no better educational partnership than a partnership that develops between the school, it's students, and their parents. Parents are a child's first teacher, and Catalina Ventura School is helping its parents maintain that important role and help build their skills to continue helping their children at home. By partnering together, we can ensure Catalina students are succeeding.